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GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF TA-YEH MINING AREA; MANGANESE ORE DEPOSITS IN T'AN-HSIANG, CHINA

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[Summary: The following report gives information from two news dispatches appearing in the same issue of the paper. One disclosed that a geological survey of the Ta-yeh mining area last year was unsatisfactory and a resurvey was required to obtain "reliable data" for construction plans; the other describes the discovery of a large sedimentary manganese ore bed in the T'an-hsiang manganese mining area.]

Work of Survey Team

To provide the reliable data for plans to begin construction of China's second iron and steel center, the members of the No 429 geological survey team of the Ministry of Geology, who are surveying in the Ta-yeh mining area, are presently speeding up all types of work to complete their survey report on the Ta-yeh mining area before the end of March 1954.

Before the end of 1953, the survey team "successfully" completed the geological and topographical surveying work of the Ta-yeh mining area as well as a report on geological surveying of the surrounding area. Subsequently, acting in accordance with higher echelon directives and the proposals of Soviet specialists, they decided to take further steps to improve the quality [standard] of their survey and to furnish full data for factory planning, and assure the completion of the geological survey report on the Ta-yeh mining area by the end of March 1954.

In a certain mountain area at Ta-yeh, the workers of the No 28 drilling machine of the advanced drilling exploration team, according to drilling theory, drafted a detailed production chart of their accomplishments and aims. By implementing Soviet methods and past experience, they have already surpassed their quota by 41 days and have completed their drilling exploration for the first quarter of the year. To reach the top of cliffs several tens of metres high to obtain samples, the geological work personnel managed to put up a rope ladder, thus advancing the work of altitude sampling.

Surveying personnel working out in the cold open desert country are also progressing with their work. Even though some men suffered from frozen hands and feet, they obstinately continued with their work and have already successfully completed their jobs. In the past, the chemical testing laboratory has frequently been unable to meet the requirements of other departments, but it is now improving its work, and its efficiency has increased by 25 percent and the quantity and quality of work has been improved. Since various workers are putting forth a united effort and are closely coordinating their activities, the compilation of the geological survey report of the Ta-yeh mining area has been accelerated.

Large Manganese Ore Deposits in T'an-hsiang Area

The government has discovered a large sedimentary manganese ore bed in the T'an-hsiang manganese mining area. Preliminary investigations and chemical examination show that this new ore deposit is not only large but is also on a level plane so that it can be surface mined. Moreover, the ore is of uniform composition. Manganese is a very important raw material for the iron and steel industry,

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so this great manganese ore discovery will be of great use in the development of the country's present iron and steel industry as well as in the establishment of the new Ta-hsing iron and steel factory. Moreover, it will furnish raw material for other industries which need manganese.

The T'an-hsiang manganese mine, which began operations in 1916, is a famous oxidized manganese mine. Originally, beneath the oxidized manganese ore of this mine was a layer of rock which resembled limestone, and people thought that it was limestone. At the end of November of 1953, Hou Te-feng, a specialist of the Ministry of Geology, came to the mine to examine the deposit. He examined and surveyed the area and concluded that the deposit was of the sedimentary type. According to geological scientific calculations, it was quite possible to have primary manganese ore beds under oxidized deposits. Therefore, on the basis of the past erroneous assumption that this strata actually was limestone, he instructed the chemical laboratory of the T'an-hsiang manganese mine to conduct further chemical analysis. Results of the chemical examinations show that what was originally recognized as a limestone (calcium carbonate) deposit is actually a high-grade manganese carbonate ore. At present, the T'an-hsiang manganese mine is preparing to advance surveying work in order to increase future production.

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